

NORTHWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.HEALTH REPORT FOR 1944.To The Chairman and Members of the Northwich Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1944.

SECTION A.STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	..	..	..	..	..	2,137 acres.
Population - Registrar-General's latest estimate of population	..	..	..	..	..	18,070.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944)	..	..	..	..	..	5,458.
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£123,435.
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£481.

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

Live Births	(Legitimate	289	M. 151	F. 138)	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	17.43.
	(Illegitimate	26	14	12)		
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	9	4	5)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ..	33.74.
	(Illegitimate	2	2	-)		
Deaths	..	..	..	258 136 122	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	14.27.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	1.	3.06
No. 30 Other purperal causes	-	-
Total	<u>1.</u>	<u>3.06</u>

Death rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	41.26.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	38.06.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	76.92.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	40.
" " Measles (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	-

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1944.

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	M.	F.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	-	1
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	6	12
7. Other Tubercular Diseases	-	1	1
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	1	1
9. Influenza	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Ac: Polio-myel: and Polio-enceph:	-	-	-
12. Ac: inf: enceph:	-	-	-
13. Cancer of b:cav: & oesoph: (M), uterus (F)	3	2	5
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	5	7
15. Cancer of Breast	-	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites	14	11	25
17. Diabetes	1	3	4
18. Intra-cran: vasc: lesions	12	19	31
19. Heart Diseases	44	34	78
20. Other Circulatory Diseases	5	4	9
21. Bronchitis	5	2	7
22. Pneumonia	7	4	11
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	3	6
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	-	2
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	-	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	4	3	7
28. Nephritis	5	3	8
29. Puerperal sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	1	2	3
32. Congenital Debility & Malformations	4	4	8
33. Suicide	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	-	2
35. Other Violent Causes	3	3	6
36. All Other Causes	11	7	18
	136	122	258

SECTION B. - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The gift to the Northwich Urban District Council of a new Ambulance equipped on very generous lines by Councillor Mrs. Darlington for the use of Northwich and District residents needs to be recorded. This Ambulance first came into service in August, 1944 and has done much to meet the needs of the sick of the area.

Transport of patients to the major Hospitals from this part of Cheshire involves long and tiring journeys for the patient - a point always borne in mind when the Ambulance's fittings and equipment were being considered.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water - During the year 5 samples of the Town's supply were examined by the County Analyst and were reported upon as follows:-

	<u>Result.</u>
11.7.44. Water from Heyeswood Reservoir after chlorination	Bacteriologically and chemically satisfactory.
11.7.44. Water from H.P. Main, Tarporley Road.	"Exceptionally high degree of organic purity and wholesome bacteriological quality".
24.10.44. Water from Heyeswood Reservoir prior to chlorination.	Chemically - "satisfactory" Bacteriologically - "border-line".
24.10.44. 2 samples of water from Heyeswood Reservoir taken in the Town after chlorination	Bacteriologically and chemically very satisfactory.

The Town's supply has no plumbo-solvent action and as a safeguard against bacterial contamination chlorination is regularly applied.

As to the availability of the supply in the area, the following sets out the proportion of dwelling-houses and the population served from the Council's Waterworks, either directly or by means of standpipes:-

		<u>Population Served.</u>
Percentage of houses with direct piped supply within dwelling	- 94.8%	17,100 (approx.)
Percentage of houses with piped supply to outbuildings detached from the house	- 1.8%	340 (")
Percentage of houses supplied by means of standpipes in yards	- 3.3%	630 (")
Percentage of houses dependent upon private wells or other sources	- Nil.	-

Swimming Baths.

A bacteriological examination of the water in the Town's Swimming Baths whilst the Baths were in full use was reported upon in July 1944 by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, as satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - With regard to this Service, no new work of any magnitude has been carried out during the year. A report from the County Analyst on the effluent of the Wallerscote Joint Outfall Works dated February, 1944, reads:- "a good quality sewage effluent".

Closet Accommodation - During the year the number of conversions to the water carriage system was 1 and the number of houses still on the conservancy system in built-up areas is 475.

Public Cleansing - The routine work of refuse collection and disposal and the cleansing of pail closets etc. proceeded satisfactorily throughout the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.

Nature of Inspections made	Number	Number of Notices Served		Results of services of Notices			
		Statutory	Informal	Notice complied with	Remain-ing in hand	Prosecutions Instituted	Pending
1.Dwelling Houses (General Inspection)	620	30	107	122	15	-	-
2.Cellar Dwellings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.Back-to-Back Houses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	50	-	15	15	-	-	-
5.Courts, Yards, Passages	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.Pail Closets	475	-	19	19	-	-	-
7.Cesspools	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.House Drainage	40	-	20	20	-	-	-
9.Ditches Water-courses, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.Offensive Accumulations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.Keeping of Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.Offensive Trades	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.a) Slaughterhouses (Public)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" (Private)	52	-	4	4	-	-	-
b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	204	-	18	18	-	-	-
14.Piggeries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.a) Dairies	36	-	5	5	-	-	-
b) Cowsheds	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Milkshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.a) Factories	30	-	-	-	-	-	-
b) Workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
c) Workplaces	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
d) Outworkers' premises	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.Bakehouses (overground)	56	-	10	10	-	-	-
" (underground)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.Common Lodging Houses	8	-	2	2	-	-	-
19.Houses let in Lodgings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.Smoke Observations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.Canal Boats	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.Infectious Disease Inquiries & Re-visits	151	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1,740	30	200	215	15	-	-

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

The number of houses visited during the course of the year by the Sanitary Inspectors was 620, and such urgent repairs as were found to be necessary were carried out.

2 dwellings were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation and they were demolished.

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.(a) Milk Supply.

During the year 64 samples of milk, being retailed in the area, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:-

- (1) For the presence of Tubercle Bacilli - These organisms were found in 2 out of the 31 samples.
- (2) For Cleanliness Tests - Of the 33 samples submitted for these tests:-

10 samples of ungraded milk were satisfactory.
 8 " " " " " barely satisfactory.
 9 " " " " " unsatisfactory.
 3 " " pasteurised milk were satisfactory.
 3 " " tuberculin-tested milk were satisfactory.

Appropriate action was taken in respect of all the unsatisfactory samples.

- (b) Meat and other Foods - Since the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Northwich was closed down on the 31st October, 1941, no slaughtering has taken place in the District. The following, based upon a statement made by the Meat Inspectors, is a summary of meat and other foods condemned during 1944:-

Ham	66 lbs.	Dried Fruits	243 lbs.
Bacon	29 "	Fresh Fruit	111 "
Beef	356 "	Jam	33 "
Lamb	11 "	Cheese	46 "
Cooked Meats	62 "	Tea	3 "
Meat Pies	72 doz.	Sugar	13 "
Calves Head	3	Lard	56 "
Fish	15 stone	Pudding Mixture	8 doz.
Kippers	251 lbs.	Crumpets	138
Fish Cakes	9 doz.	Potato Cakes	62
Batch Cakes	8		

- (c) The inspection of premises in which other foods are prepared has been continued during the year.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases, other than Measles, was low and calls for no special comment. Of the 4 cases of Diphtheria notified, one had previously received protective treatment under the Council's Scheme some three years previously. There were no deaths from Diphtheria during 1944.

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), during the year 1944.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	39	34	-
Diphtheria	4	4	-
Pneumonia	11	-	3
Erysipelas	2	1	-
Measles	71	2	-
Whooping Cough	17	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	2	1
Dysentery	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	1

Specimens submitted for Bacteriological Examination.

Examined for	Number submitted	Result	
		Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Bacilli	46	4	42
Typhoid Group	7	1	6
Haemolytic Streptococci	9	3	6

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 "	4	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	2	-	-	3	2	-	1
45 - 55 "	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65 "	2	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	8	3	7	6	6	-	1

Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1943 - 175.
 Number of patients on register at 31st December, 1944 - 185.

66 Sputum specimens were examined at the County Council's Laboratory during the year, 8 being reported on as positive.

At the time of writing, the Council, having noted the steadily increasing incidence of Tuberculosis which has occurred during the last 5 years, are considering what they can do to improve matters.

(3) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The Scheme which was commenced jointly in 1941 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was continued and by the end of the year 1944 the total number of children known to have had protective treatment in the Urban area was 3,553. The actual percentages of protected children by the end of the year 1944 were:-

under 5 years 50.65%.
 between 5 - 15 years 78.54%.

Towards the end of the year the Council agreed that those children who received protective treatment under their Scheme in 1941, when they were 3 years and under, and who are therefore in 1944 just about to start, or have already started, school should receive a third reinforcement injection of 0.5c.c. A.P.T. The response on the part of the parents of such children was satisfactory and 61% of them attended for this "booster" treatment.

Set out below is a table recording the progress of the Immunisation Scheme, the numbers dealt with in the various age groups, etc. since the Scheme was first started in 1941. This table takes the form of that recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Age in years on 31st December of the corresponding year.	Persons inoculated each year from 1941 - 1944.				
	1941	1942	1943	1944	
0 -	3	4	-	-	Total inoculated aged under five years on 31st Dec. 1944:- 459.
1 -	58	67	62	104	
2 -	72	60	30	26	
3 -	96	35	25	13	
4 -	94	25	38	7	
5 -	143	42	33	7	Total inoculated aged 5 - 14 years on 31st Dec. 1944:- 1,972.
6 -	179	24	25	3	
7 -	217	10	11	2	
8 -	184	4	4	2	
9 -	201	5	4	1	
10 -	241	4	3	1	Total aged 15 years and over:- 754. Grand total 1941-1944:- 3,185. 29. 339. 3,553.
11 -	239	4	4	-	
12 -	217	7	4	1	
13 -	245	9	3	-	
14 -	235	3	2	-	
15 and over	41	1	-	1	
Total each year	2,465	304	248	168	
Age not known	28	-	-	1	
Children known to have had treatment privately or elsewhere:-					
GRAND TOTAL:-					

(4) SCABIES AND VERMINOUS INFESTATION.

The arrangements made jointly in 1942 with the other three Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities worked very satisfactorily during the year under review and it is gratifying to record a reduction in 1944 of 42% in the number of cases of vermin infestation compared with the 1943 figures. The following sets out the 1942, 1943 and 1944 figures of patients dealt with:-

Cases of Scabies	1942. 684	1943. 376	1944. 222
Cases of Pediculosis	46	36	15
	total 730.	total 412.	total 237.
Number of Households involved	212	156	116

At the time of writing, mid 1945, it is apparent that the incidence of Scabies is still further decreasing.

The practice of home disinfection in cases of Infectious Diseases (including Tuberculosis) and the eradication of vermin was continued during the year. All the Schools in the Town were disinfected at least once during the year and 62 houses were disinfested for the purpose of eradicating vermin. In particular the arrangements made for the disinfection of mattresses and bedding of Tuberculosis cases have been "tightened up".

I would like to say in closing this report how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

Yours faithfully,

August, 1945.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

